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A BREATHING SPELL

The fight against famine is not yet over. With 1946 crops now in the harvest stage, the world merely has a breathing spell between rounds.

Despite signs that crop production this year will be larger than in 1945, there is still a gap between estimated food requirements of the world and the estimated supplies during the next 12 months.

Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson, speaking at a "famine" luncheon August 22, estimated that 22 million tons of wheat and 4 million tons of other grains will be needed in shortage areas of the world between now and the 1947 harvest.

It appears that about 19 million tons of wheat and 6.5 million tons of other grains will be available to meet that need, he added.

The United States has not yet finished its job of sharing food with other Nations, the Secretary pointed out.

"It is not possible at this moment to see definitely what our job will be," he added. "We won't know the extent of the world food shortage for the coming winter until October at least when the Northern Hemisphere crops are in.We still don't know what agency will take over the relief job that UNRRA has been doing when that agency goes out of existence.

"What I'm saying is that we face a good many questions about the future of food relief — the extent of the world shortage, the extent of the demands against our supplies, the timing of those demands, the kinds of food that the hungry Nations will buy."

Paul C. Stark, director of the President's Famine Emergency Committee and an official of the Department of Agriculture, backs up Mr. Anderson's comments.

Despite the outlook for good crops, worldwide production is still under prewar levels, Stark says. Moreover, the reserve stocks of cereal grains carried over from last season are extremely small.

"The hungry Nations are counting on our production to narrow the gap between requirements and supplies," Stark says.

The 5-point Famine Emergency Program is still good for America, according to both Secretary Anderson and Stark:

Don't waste food....eat foods that are abundant....keep Victory Gardens producing....can and preserve food....salvage and re-use fats and oils.

CORN PROSPECTS DECLINE SLIGHTLY

Prospective 1946 corn production in the U. S. declined 55 million bushels during the first half of August but the outlook still remains for a record-breaking crop.

A special mid-month report by the Department of Agriculture places the 1946 production at 3,442,202,000 bushels, 13 percent more than the 1945 crop.

Continued dry weather around the Great Lakes and in the Plains States, most severe in southern Michigan and southern Kansas, accounted for most of the estimated reduction.

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YOUR STAKE IN A WELL-FED WORLD

What do the objectives of the Food and Agriculture Organization mean to the average American? Why should he be interested in good diets for all the people in the world?

FAO hopes to make these answers come true:

For farmers, there are vast potential new markets. The underfed two-thirds of the earth's population represent the greatest untapped markets in the world.

For the businessman, expanding production, expanding markets, and expanding trade will mean more profitable business. For the worker, more business means more production, jobs, and income.

For the housewife, improved food production and better distribution mean better nutrition and a healthier family.

For people of good will, freeing the world from the fear of hunger and want is the foundation which they hope will build lasting peace.

Nations will meet September 2 at an FAO Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, to seek common policies and actions in solving world food problems — working in the knowledge that the world does not have to tolerate hunger.

One man on the land should be able to feed 10 or more off the land. In our country 10 million farm operators and workers are feeding a population of 140 million — and in the last marketing year, we sent one-sixth of our food abroad.

In most countries the story is different. Before the war, more than half the world was seriously undernourished — with less than 2,250 calories per person per day. If people can afford to buy what they want, the world will have no food to burn for years to come.

FAO will attempt to "balance" food shortages and surpluses in the world — in an effort to ease chronic hunger — by a long-range international food program.

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PLAN TO RAISE GERMAN FOOD RATIONS

The basic food ration in U. S. and British zones of Germany will be increased to 1,500 calories a day per person during the coming winter, according to a British cabinet minister.

The British on August 19 announced an increase of 200 calories daily in the food ration of Germans in larger towns. This brings the diet standard to around 1,350 calories. (The average American diet is calculated around 3,300 calories.)

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- - UNRRA REPORTS - -

Greece — Half of a gift of 1,680 farm animals to UNRRA from the people of Mississippi docked at Piraeus, August 7. Despite a couple of stormy days the crossing was successful. Eighteen of the calves born en route are living. The cattle will be given to the neediest Greek farmers through the Greek Agricultural Cooperatives. A resolution of thanks was given to R. M. Coman, Extension Agent, of Haselhurst, Mississippi, to take back to Governor Thomas L. Bailey.

A second shipload of Mississippi livestock now enroute to Greece aboard the Calvin Victory is expected to arrive in a few days.

UNRRA has brought about 1,500 tractors into Greece since April 1945. With the belief that the world-wide war on famine must be mechanized to be won, UNRRA is giving instructions in the maintenance and repair of 300 tractors. A similar course will be given in Austria, Italy, and Czechoslovakia.

Italy — UNRRA's feeding program has been extended to include 150,000 children, nursing and expectant mothers in the nine Lombardy provinces.

Coal miners in Sardinia have received 6,000 pairs of processed leather shoes from UNRRA workshops. At least 1,000 of the island's 9,000 miners were working in bare feet or with their toes sticking out.

Poland -- While appreciating the Czechoslovakian offer of fruits and vegetables to their country, the Polish Government suggested that the commodities be sent to countries short of fruits and vegetables, notably Austria. Poland has a good vegetable crop this year, particularly tomatoes, cucumbers, and cabbage. Included in the Czechoslovakian donation were 1,000 cars of potatoes, 900 to 1,000 cars of cucumbers, 200 to 300 cars of tomatoes, 240 to 300 of pears, and 20 of cabbage. UNRRA and the Polish Government are working on a program designed to give every Polish child a half pint of milk each day, at school or at home.

Austria -- Displaced persons are maintaining community garden projects. At Camp Lexenfeld, 27,254 square meters of land are under cultivation to potatoes, beets, cabbage, lettuce, carrots, onions and 10,000 tomato plants. About 13,000 displaced persons could be fed a 1,000-calorie diet for one day on the food which will be produced in this one camp.

Russia -- In Byelorussia, UNRRA food supplemented with local grain and potatoes is feeding a large number of children. Some 28,000 children, including 7,000 from German labor camps, are in children's hostels, and 2,000 are in 24-hour nurseries. About 300,000 children are wholly or partly orphaned by the war. School meals are provided for 500,000 children.

Ireland -- Eire has contributed sugar to Italy and 285 tons of bacon to UNRRA. The Eire bacon will be allocated one-third each to Ukrainia, Poland, and Austria.

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